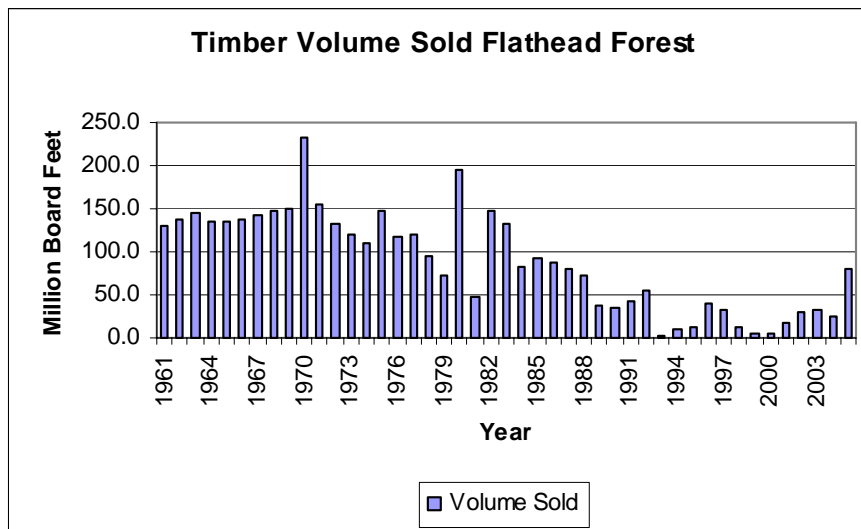


Figure 2, shown below, illustrates the trend in timber volume sold by the Flathead National Forest from 1961 through 2005¹.

Figure 2: Timber Volume Sold on the Flathead National Forest.



Expansion of local tourism and the retail economy is increasing the economic diversity in the Flathead valley, although the forest products industry is still an important sector.

The Flathead National Forest has always been a place where local residents and Tribes could harvest miscellaneous forest products, such as firewood, berries, or mushrooms. These uses of the national forest provide an important connection between people and their forest.

Forest-Wide Desired Conditions

- a. Land classified as “suitable for timber production” would have a regularly scheduled timber harvest program that provides benefits to people while achieving ecosystem health and sustainability.
- b. Land classified as “not suitable for regularly scheduled timber production,” but where timber harvesting could occur for other multiple-use purposes, would have an irregular, unscheduled timber harvest program that achieves ecosystem health and sustainability while providing benefits to people.

¹ The volume sold in 2005 reflects the salvage of burned timber from the 2003 fires. Also, the large amount of timber volume sold in 1970 is a reflection of a strong market and the sale of several years’ worth of previously unsold timber sale offerings.